AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8 to read as follows:

The attachment arm assemblies 26a and 26b (also known as reciprocating assemblies 26a and 26b) are hingedly attached to one end of the reciprocating platform 24. As attached, the attachment arm assemblies are able to reciprocate the lift platform 28 between a lowered position, an intermediate position, and a raised position, as is well known in the art. In the lowered position, the lift platform 28 is located adjacent a curbside or loading platform. In this position, a wheelchair may be rolled on or off of the lift platform 28. In the intermediate position, the lift platform 28 is substantially level with the reciprocating platform 24, to permit withdrawal of the wheelchair lift 22 into the stowage compartment. Finally, in the raised position, the lift platform 28 is displaced upwardly to position the lift platform 28 adjacent an entryway of the motor vehicle.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 7, line 21 and ending on page 9, line 2, to read as follows:

Referring now to FIGURES 4 and 5, a support assembly 120 formed in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention will now be described in greater detail. The support assembly 120 of the second embodiment is identical in materials and operation to the first embodiment described above with the following exception. The support assembly 120 includes a U-shape saddle strap 140 formed from a high strength material, such as steel. The saddle strap 140 extends from one side of the support arm [[30a]] 130a to the other side of the support arm [[30a]] 130a to cradle the balance arm [[32a]] 132a within the saddle strap 140. The saddle strap 140 is fastened to the support arm [[30a]] 130a by a plurality of fasteners [[142]] 152, such as bolts, extending through opposite sides of the saddle strap 140 and the support arm [[30a]] 130a.

In operation, in the event that the support arm pin [[42]] 142 fails, the load of the support arm [[30a]] 130a is transferred to the balance arm [[32a]] 132a by the saddle strap 140. In the event support arm pin [[42]] 142 fails, the support arm ~~30a or 30b~~ 130a or 130b is held in

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position by the torque tube [[27]] (not shown). Because the saddle strap 140 is fastened to the support arm [[30a]] 130a, the saddle strap 140 is also held in position. However, because of the failed support arm pin [[42]] 142, the lift platform [[28]] 128 drops slightly until the balance arm [[32a]] 132a is received within the saddle strap 140. As a result, load is transferred to the balance arm [[32a]] 132a.

Referring now to FIGURES 6 and 7, a support assembly 220 formed in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention will now be described in greater detail. The support assembly 220 is identical in materials and operation to the embodiments described above with the following exceptions. As seen best by referring to FIGURE 6, the support assembly 220 includes a U-shaped retaining plate 222 extending between the support arm pin [[42]] 242 and balance arm pin [[44]] 244. Although the retaining plate 222 is suitably U-shaped in configuration, other shapes, such as two plates pinned to the outboard and inboard facing sides of the support arm [[30a]] 230a and balance arm [[32a]] 232a, are also within the scope of the present invention.

As seen best by referring to FIGURE 7, the support arm pin [[42]] 242 and balance arm pin [[44]] 244 are seated within the support arm [[30a]] 230a and balance arm [[32a]] 232a, respectively, on bushing housings ~~224a and 224b~~ 254a and 254b. The retaining plate 222 extends around one end of the support arm [[30a]] 230a and balance arm [[32a]] 232a and is coupled to each arm by the pins ~~42 and 44~~ 242 and 244.

During normal operation, the support arm [[30a]] 230a and balance arm [[32a]] 232a are attached to the lift platform [[28]] 228 using the support arm pin [[42]] 242 and balance arm pin [[44]] 244. The support arm pin [[42]] 242 and balance arm pin [[44]] 244 are held in place by retaining rings (not shown) located on both ends. In the event of a pin breakage or displacement, the retaining plate 222 holds one of either the support arm [[30a]] 230a or balance arm [[32a]] 232a in place. The outer surface of the bushing housing ~~224a or 224b~~ 254a or 254b is trapped in place by the inner surface of shaft housing 226a or 226b, thereby constraining the system in the event of a pin failure. Thus, the contact between the inner surface of the shaft

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housing and the outer surface of the bushing housing are redundant to the function normally provided by the support arm pin [[42]] 242 or balance arm pin [[44]] 244.

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